SUMMARY DEFINITIONS OF TEST PREP MODULES

BrainScan: A diagnostic test given to students to determine the SMART Curriculum for each student. The BrainScan is composed of Self-Assessment Questions and Objective-Assessment Questions, which help evaluate personal study habits and learning styles as well as determine the assignment of Learning Modules for each student.

SMART Curriculum: Curriculum composed of activities from the Learning and Test Modules assigned in a specific order to each student. A SMART Curriculum is individually generated for each student based upon the results from their BrainScan.

Instructional Module: A module composed of Practorials, MicroCourses, and Labs and designed to improve students' content knowledge and test taking skills in preparation for an exam.

MicroCourse: A 25- to 35-minute learning segment addressing a single subject. Within each MicroCourse there are skill sections that relate to a specific subject. The number of sections in a MicroCourse varies according to the subject. Each skill section in a MicroCourse concludes with a set of three Learning Questions.

Practorials: Activities lasting 15- to 25-minutes and focusing on specific test-taking tips and strategies, given the specific types of questions in a given exam. The number of tips and strategies in a Practorial will vary accordingly. Each Practorial includes a quiz containing 5 questions from the testGEAR Quiz database. Quiz questions deal with the structure of an exam and general test-taking strategies. A second, optional quiz is offered to provide the student with more practice. A results page appears after each quiz for the student to explore answers to specific questions. Practorials are not necessarily content specific, however it is specific in terms of detailing what the student should expect from a test.

Vocab Lab: An entertaining activity designed to build critical vocabulary skills, helping students learn, review and reinforce vocabulary in a fast-paced game-like format.

Test Module: This module is composed of Full Tests, Practice Tests, and MiniTests designed to help students to become familiar with the types of questions found on the exam and the overall structure and timing of the exam. This module allows students to apply the strategies they learned in the Practorials and skills they reviewed in the MicroCourses on questions like the ones they will encounter on the target examination. This exposure to exam-like stimuli serves to demystify the exam, thereby increasing student self-confidence and alleviating test anxiety.

Practice Tests: These tests are based on test sections or question types found on a target examination. Some Practice Tests replicate a test section or focus on a particular type of test question, while other Practice Tests are reduced versions of an actual test section. Practice Tests vary in length because both the number and types of questions vary, as well as the length of time allotted per section in an exam. In general, however, Practice Tests are generally designed to be approximately 30 minutes in length. Students can take Practice Tests in either Test Mode or Student Mode.

Full Tests: Resumable, full-length simulations of a target examination. In addition to having the same type of sections, distribution of question types, and number of questions as an actual exam, Full Tests may also include timed breaks at the same point that they occur during a real-life administration of the exam. In general, Full Tests are included in a product only when the structure and administration of the target exam makes it critical for students to learn how to pace themselves and build up their stamina for an hours-long ordeal. As a result, Full Tests are included in college-admissions products such as the SAT, PSAT, and ACT, but tend to be replaced by MiniTests for state products. At the end of a Full Test, as for all testGEAR tests, students can view their answers, the correct answers, and Explanatory Answers.

MiniTests: These condensed versions of full tests contain questions that are representative of the test as a whole. MiniTests allow students to experience the range of question types on a test within a compressed time frame (for example, 60 minutes). These tests are often referred to as Pre- and Post-Tests.